Inquiry Into Slaying of Dr. King Is Announced by Jesse Jackson

CHICAGO, Aug. 3 (AP) — The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson has opened his own investigation into the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because "the threat of death hangs over everyone present at the assassination," he said.

Prompted by a letter from the convicted assassin, James Earl Ray, Mr. Jackson asked permission today to interview Mr. Ray at Tennessee's Bushy Mountain State Penitentiary.

"I fear greatly for his life," Mr. Jackson said. "I fear greatly for my own life. The threat of death hangs over everyone present at the assassination because I am convinced Ray didn't act alone and there are still evil forces at large."

Mr. Jackson, who is the head of People United to Save Humanity, known as Operation PUSH, was on the motel room balcony with Dr. King when Dr. King was shot in Memphis on April 4, 1968.